(e) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employers found engaging children in identified hazardous occupations are liable to be prosecuted. For violating provisions of the Act, it further provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to one year or with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/- but which may extend to Rs. 20,000/- or with both.

(f) No, Sir.

Unlawful activities among educated youths

198. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave unemployment situation in the country and the educated youths are taking to unlawful activities;

(b) what action Government propose to create more employment opportunities to contain unemployment in the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) As per the estimates available from the quinquennial employment & unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, open unemployment in the country on usual status basis was of the order of 90 lakhs. Out of them, around 60% are educated unemployed.

(b) and (c) Government is targeting creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities during the 10th plan period. Out of these, around 3 crore will be created in normal growth process and the remaining 2 crore through the special employment generation programmes.

Exposure of EPF in Equities

199. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investments made by the EPF during the last one year and the returns earned therefrom;

(b) whether the EPF had appointed a consultant to suggest investment of options to EPF;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations given by the consultant;

(d) whether Government are considering the exposure of EPF in equities; and

(e) if so, by when and the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The category-wise details of net investment made during the last financial year and the total investment holding (Face value) in EPF account as on 31.3.2005 are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Category	Net Investment during 2004-05	Holdings as On 31.3.2005	Interest Earned during 2004-05 on total corpus
1.	Central Government Securities	2575.46	9188.77	794.45
2.(a)	State Government Securities	1498.71	6918.46	524.29
(b)	Government Guaranteed Securities	-(147.81)	385.77	61.78
3.	Special Deposit Scheme	141.38	52096.15	4164.13
4.	Public Sector Financial Institutions	3858.14	11175.33	741.14
	TOTAL	7925.88	79764.48	6285.79

(b and (c) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund had decided to engage a consultant for one time study of the Investment options for the funds of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund. Accordingly, M/s. Mercer Human Resource Consulting was appointed for this work. The consultant has not submitted their recommendations as yet.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Rehabilitation of child labour employed in fire works

200. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of overwhelmingly large number of bonded children below 14 years of age employed in fire works and match factories in different South Indian States, including Sivakasi fire work factories from twelve to fourteen hours a day in dark and dingy conditions; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government during the past three years to liberate such bonded child labour and how many of them have been emancipated from such bondage and rehabilitated during the period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The Government is aware of the fact that children below the age of 14 are working as Child Labour in the fire works and match factories in South India.

(b) The Government are implementing the National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in the area for some years now. The number of children working in the above named industry has been declining consistently in the last few years.

Nation-wide coverage drive for uncovered establishments

201. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a nation-wide coverage drive for uncovered establishments/factories, including *beedi*-workers during January-February, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the Nation-wide coverage drive;

(c) the details of the number of establishments/factories and *beedi* workers establishments detected, State-wise, during this Nation-wide Drive